

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

KEITH M. HUGGINS,

8:15CV345

Petitioner,

v.

**MEMORANDUM  
AND ORDER**

SCOTT FRAKES,

Respondent.

**I. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF PETITION**

This matter is before the court on preliminary review of Petitioner Keith M. Huggins's ("Petitioner") Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Filing No. [1](#)) ("petition") filed on September 18, 2015. It appears from the face of the petition that Petitioner's claims may be barred by the statute of limitations because the petition was filed more than one year after Petitioner's conviction became final. See [28 U.S.C. § 2244\(d\)\(1\)](#). However, in order to ensure a just and fair resolution of this matter, the court will enter an order progressing this case to final resolution.

**II. NOTICE**

Petitioner filed this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and 2254. Section 2241 authorizes federal district courts to issue a writ of habeas corpus to a state or federal prisoner who is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States. [28 U.S.C. § 2241\(c\)\(3\)](#). Section 2254 confers jurisdiction on district courts to "entertain an application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." [28 U.S.C. § 2254\(a\)](#). It is a well-established rule of statutory construction that when two statutes cover the same situation, the more specific statute takes precedence over the more general one. See [Edmond v. United States, 520 U.S. 651,](#)

[657 \(1997\)](#). A number of circuit courts have held that Section 2254 and its provisions take precedence over Section 2241 because it is the more specific statute. See [Medberry v. Crosby](#), 351 F.3d 1049, 1060 (11th Cir. 2003); [Cook v. New York State Div. of Parole](#), 321 F.3d 274, 279, n.4 (2nd Cir. 2003); [Coady v. Vaughn](#), 251 F.3d 480, 484-85 (3rd Cir. 2001).

Here, it is apparent that Petitioner is challenging his state-court conviction. The appropriate vehicle for doing so is through a petition for writ of habeas corpus brought pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#). Therefore, this order serves as notice to Petitioner that the court intends to construe his petition for writ of habeas corpus as one brought solely pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#). In the alternative, Petitioner may move to voluntarily withdraw his habeas corpus petition within 30 days. See [Castro v. United States](#), 540 U.S. 375, 382-83 (2003) (requiring notice, warning, and opportunity to amend or withdraw before recharacterization of pro se litigant's motion as initial § 2255 motion; when these requirements unsatisfied, recharacterized motion not considered § 2255 motion rendering later motion successive); see also [Martin v. Overton](#), 391 F.3d 710, 713 (6th Cir. 2004) (applying *Castro* to § 2254 petition).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The clerk of the court is directed to mail copies of this Memorandum and Order and the habeas corpus petition to Respondent and the Nebraska Attorney General by regular first-class mail.
2. By **March 4, 2016**, Respondent must file a motion for summary judgment or state court records in support of an answer. The clerk of the court is directed to set a pro se case management deadline in this case using the following text: **March 4, 2016**: deadline for Respondent to file state court records in support of answer or motion for summary judgment.

3. If Respondent elects to file a motion for summary judgment, the following procedures must be followed by Respondent and Petitioner:

- A. The motion for summary judgment must be accompanied by a separate brief, submitted at the time the motion is filed.
- B. The motion for summary judgment must be supported by any state court records that are necessary to support the motion. Those records must be contained in a separate filing entitled: “Designation of State Court Records in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment.”
- C. Copies of the motion for summary judgment, the designation, including state court records, and Respondent’s brief must be served on Petitioner *except* that Respondent is only required to provide Petitioner with a copy of the specific pages of the record that are cited in Respondent’s brief. In the event that the designation of state court records is deemed insufficient by Petitioner, Petitioner may file a motion with the court requesting additional documents. Such motion must set forth the documents requested and the reasons the documents are relevant to the cognizable claims.
- D. No later than 30 days following the filing of the motion for summary judgment, Petitioner must file and serve a brief in opposition to the motion for summary judgment. Petitioner may not submit other documents unless directed to do so by the court.
- E. No later than 30 days after Petitioner’s brief is filed, Respondent must file and serve a reply brief. In the event that Respondent elects not to file a reply brief, he should inform the court by filing

a notice stating that he will not file a reply brief and that the motion is therefore fully submitted for decision.

- F. If the motion for summary judgment is denied, Respondent must file an answer, a designation and a brief that complies with terms of this order. (*See* the following paragraph.) The documents must be filed no later than 30 days after the denial of the motion for summary judgment. **Respondent is warned that failure to file an answer, a designation and a brief in a timely fashion may result in the imposition of sanctions, including Petitioner's release.**

4. If Respondent elects to file an answer, the following procedures must be followed by Respondent and Petitioner:

- A. By **March 4, 2016**, Respondent must file all state court records that are relevant to the cognizable claims. *See, e.g.,* Rule 5(c)-(d) of the *Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts*. Those records must be contained in a separate filing entitled: "Designation of State Court Records in Support of Answer."
- B. No later than 30 days after the relevant state court records are filed, Respondent must file an answer. The answer must be accompanied by a separate brief, submitted at the time the answer is filed. Both the answer and the brief must address all matters germane to the case including, but not limited to, the merits of Petitioner's allegations that have survived initial review, and whether any claim is barred by a failure to exhaust state remedies, a procedural bar, non-retroactivity, a statute of limitations, or because the petition is an unauthorized second or successive

petition. *See, e.g.,* Rules 5(b) and 9 of the *Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts*.

- C. Copies of the answer, the designation, and Respondent's brief must be served on Petitioner at the time they are filed with the court *except* that Respondent is only required to provide Petitioner with a copy of the specific pages of the designated record that are cited in Respondent's brief. In the event that the designation of state court records is deemed insufficient by Petitioner, Petitioner may file a motion with the court requesting additional documents. Such motion must set forth the documents requested and the reasons the documents are relevant to the cognizable claims.
- D. No later than 30 days after Respondent's brief is filed, Petitioner must file and serve a brief in response. Petitioner must not submit any other documents unless directed to do so by the court.
- E. No later than 30 days after Petitioner's brief is filed, Respondent must file and serve a reply brief. In the event that Respondent elects not to file a reply brief, he should inform the court by filing a notice stating that he will not file a reply brief and that the merits of the petition are therefore fully submitted for decision.
- F. The clerk of the court is directed to set a pro se case management deadline in this case using the following text: **April 4, 2016:** check for Respondent's answer and separate brief.

5. No discovery shall be undertaken without leave of the court. *See* Rule 6 of the *Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts*.

6. Petitioner must voluntarily withdraw his habeas corpus petition within 30 days if he does not want this action to proceed as one brought solely pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#). If Petitioner fails to respond to this order, the court will construe Petitioner's petition as one solely filed pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#).

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.

BY THE COURT:

*Richard G. Kopf*

Senior United States District Judge